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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/736,084	12/15/2003	Joseph C. Walsh	2003P88073 US	3273
28524	7590	07/17/2007	EXAMINER	
SIEMENS CORPORATION			KRISHNAN, GANAPATHY	
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
170 WOOD AVENUE SOUTH			1623	
ISELIN, NJ 08830				

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
07/17/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/736,084	WALSH ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ganapathy Krishnan	1623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 April 2007.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some *
 - c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

The amendment filed 4/17/2007 has been received, entered and carefully considered.

The following information provided in the amendment affects the instant application:

1. Claims 33-34 have been canceled.
2. Remarks drawn to rejections under 35 USC 103.

Claims 1-32 are pending in the case.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fox et al (The Journal of Organic Chemistry, 1968, 33(4), 1592-99) in combination with Miller et al (J. Org. Chem. 1963, 28, 936-41) is being maintained for reasons of record.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

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This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Applicants have traversed the rejection arguing that:

1. Fox et al do not teach nor suggest the instant method the purpose or the motivation for adding a hydroxyl protecting group at the 5' position of compound 8 to form the compound as recited in instant claims 29 and 31. One of skill in the art would have been motivated to use the free 5' hydroxyl compound 8 to prepare various derivatives. The intermediate compound taught by Fox is different and is used for making the tricyclic compound 6.
2. The intentional preparation of the enolate of the thymidine base such as compound 3 results in cyclization to form the tricyclic structures represented by compound 4. The compound in instant claim 29 is a methyl ether enolate that is stable and does not undergo cyclization. One of skill in the art viewing compound II of Miller and the teaching of Fox could not start with compound II of Miller and prepare the enolate of the compound of instant claim 29. There is no reasonable expectation of success.
3. The conversion of intermediate 4 to 5 in Fox is not the same as in instant claim 1.

Applicants' arguments are not found to be persuasive.

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Fox et al teach the preparation of compound 8, a thymidine derivative (page 1593, Figure 2). This compound is structurally the same as the compounds in instant claims 21 and 30 except that the 5' hydroxyl group is protected in the instant compound. The compound of Fox has a leaving group (mesylate) as instantly claimed. The compound of Fox serves as an intermediate for making several derivatives of compound 6 that are biologically active (page 1592, right column, lines 1-5). Fox may not teach the protection of the 5' hydroxyl group as recited in instant claims 29 and 31. One of skill in the art knows that protection of the hydroxyl groups in the sugar moiety is a common operation in nucleoside synthesis.

Miller teaches such protected compounds (compound II in Figure 1). According to Miller et al, thymidine derivatives II (page 936, Figure 1) are also useful intermediates in the syntheses of nucleosides of potential value as antitumor agents (page 936, left column, first paragraph). Compound II of Miller is structurally very close to that of the compound claimed in instant claim 29 except that the carbonyl group in the base is not present as an enolate. But such an enolate structure is an important intermediate as taught by Fox (above). Applicants argue that the intentional preparation of the enolate of the thymidine base such as compound 3 of Fox results in cyclization to form the tricyclic structures represented by compound 4. This is the case only if the enolate is generated and does not have another electrophilic compound to react with. In the absence of another electrophilic compound the enolate will displace the leaving group to form the tricyclic compound. One of skill in the art knows that enolates can be trapped with electrophiles to form the corresponding enol ethers such as methyl halide under appropriate reaction conditions. Since Fox or Miller does not specifically disclose such a reaction does not mean that such a reaction cannot be performed to make the enol ether as in instant claim 29.

Intermediate 8 taught by Fox can then be used for making derivatives with protection of the 5' or the 3' hydroxyl groups. One of skill in the art will recognize this from the teachings of Fox and Miller. Fox teaches the conversion of the anhydro intermediate 4 to the derivative 5, may not be the same as the compound obtained in step (c) of instant claim 1 but is similar. A derivative that is structurally similar to the compound in step (a) of claim 1 (the protected derivative) is taught by Miller (structure III of Miller in Figure 1). Even though the structure of the anhydro derivatives are slightly different in both Fox and Miller one of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that the sequence of steps can be applied to make the compound in instant claim 1 via the steps as instantly claimed with slight modifications. Such a modification based on the prior art is well within the purview of one of ordinary skill in the art.

Based on the teachings of the prior art, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make compounds as claimed in instant claims 21-30 via the process as claimed in instant claims 1-20 since structurally very close compounds as instantly claimed and steps for the same are seen to be taught in the prior art.

One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to make compounds as instantly claimed via the process as instantly claimed and taught by the prior art, since they serve as intermediates for the syntheses of several other derivatives having biological activity including antitumor activity as taught by Fox and Miller. Similarity in structure and function entails motivation for making the compounds as instantly claimed via the method as instantly claimed.

Conclusion

Claims 1-32 are rejected.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ganapathy Krishnan whose telephone number is 571-272-0654. The examiner can normally be reached on 8.30am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Shaojia A. Jiang can be reached on 571-272-0627. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would

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like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

GK


Shaojia Jiang
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1623